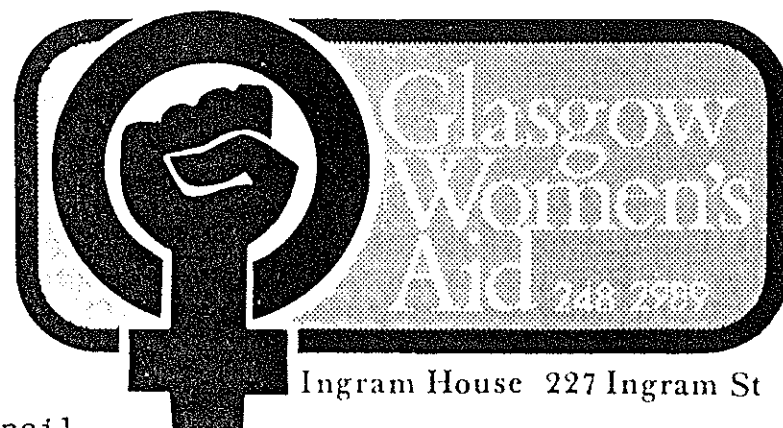


2nd November 1992

Chief Executive
Clydebank District Council



Ingram House 227 Ingram St

Dear Mr

Glasgow Women's Aid writes to record its support for the work carried out by Clydebank Women's Aid over the past decade.

An active part of a national network Clydebank Women's Aid provides a comprehensive range of services for abused women and their children (if any), perhaps the most relevant of which for the District Council is the provision of temporary accommodation in the form of refuges. In addition to this Women's Aid groups provide information on a wide variety of topics relevant to abused women and their children e.g. housing issues such as the Matrimonial Homes Act, legal issues such as custody and access, including accompanying the woman to court and welfare benefit entitlement. After refuge, support is provided to women in their new home which lessens the feelings of vulnerability and isolation. Without such support, women may not feel able to continue the tenancy.

Clydebank Women's Aid also works with children in and after the refuge; provides training to a wide variety of individuals, groups and statutory agencies leading to a greater understanding of abuse; works with other Women's Aid groups to provide a national service and ensure proposed legislation is relevant for abused women and their children. Women's Aid is also often asked to be represented on other groups' management committees e.g. Housing Associations, Mental Health groups as there are abused women within every group within society.

The value and cost-effective nature of this work to both Regional and District councils has been consistently recognised by their funding Women's Aid groups. In particular, the recent COSLA report (1991) "Women & Violence" recognised the "crucial role of local authority housing departments in providing practical assistance for abused women and their children" and recognised the necessity of funding and refuge provision to allow an agency to provide such. Only Women's Aid provides this necessary and all-round service.

The work of Women's Aid will be needed for the foreseeable future; every year more women approach Clydebank Women's Aid for refuge, support and information. Sadly we see no end to the abuse of women despite our best efforts and that of other agencies.

Women's Aid has achieved much both for individual women and their children and in changing attitudes, provision and legislation over the past 20 years. Clydebank Women's Aid has been part of this process.

All political parties support the work of Women's Aid. We expect that Clydebank District Council will continue to support Clydebank Women's Aid as any other course of action could be interpreted as colluding with allowing the continued abuse of women and children.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of Glasgow Women's Aid



Nuclear Free Zone

Clydebank District Council

District Council Offices Clydebank G81 1TG
Telephone 041-941-1331 Fax 041-952-0573

Chief Executive

Glasgow Women's Aid

5th November 1992

Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding the matter of funding for Clydebank Women's Aid.

I can advise you that your comments have been noted and your support for Clydebank Women's Aid will be intimated to the members of the Council.

Perhaps I could take this opportunity to draw your attention to a number of issues regarding this matter.

The District Council has for many years supported the project by providing property at a rental far less than the market value for the accommodation. It has also maintained a generally good relationship with refuge staff and members of Women's Aid, and the Council is extremely well placed in relation to the recommendations from COSLA's recent Working Party on Women and Violence.

Responsibility for funding the project rests primarily with the Regional Council's Social Work department, and no approach was made to this authority until after Urban Aid funding had ended. The timing of the approach was also too late to allow funding to be made available for the year to March 1992, and any shortage should have been provided for by SRC.

The District Council has a duty to ensure that any project which it might fund, meets appropriate operational and management standards.

I really must take issue however, with your comments in the last paragraph of your letter. To suggest that the District Council might collude with abuse, is truly to misunderstand the reality of the circumstances in Clydebank, and ignore the facts.

I hope that these brief outlines will be helpful.

Thank you once again for taking the time to comment.

Yours sincerely,

e Officer

Chief Executive